

CLAIMS

1. An alkaline, aqueous composition suitable for cleaning carpets, which composition comprises:
 - 5 (a) 0.1 to 50% w/w of a first cleaning agent;
 - (b) 0.1 to 20% w/w of a second cleaning agent;
 - (c) 0.1 to 10% w/w of a third cleaning agent; and
 - (d) 0.1 to 10% w/w of a surfactant.
- 10 2. A composition according to claim 1, comprising:
 - (a) 0.1 to 50% by weight of detergent builder;
 - (b) 0.1 to 20% by weight of coupling agent;
 - (c) 0.1 to 10% by weight of organic solvent;
 - (d) 0.1 to 10% surfactant; and, optionally,
 - 15 (e) minor amounts of additivesthe balance being water.
3. A composition according to claim 1 or claim 2, further comprising one or more of the following additives: a colouring agent, such as a dye; a perfume; a biocide; a
20 preservative; an anti-septic; and/or an anti-static agent.
4. A composition according to any preceding claim, comprising benzalkonium chloride.
- 25 5. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein component (a) is selected from phosphonates, such as pyrophosphoric acid and polyphosphoric acid, and salts thereof.

6. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein component (b) is selected from oxygenated organic solvents, such as an ether of an alkylene glycol.
7. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein component (c) is selected from organic solvents able to dissolve greases or fats, such as C₉ to C₁₅ linear aliphatic hydrocarbons, such as C₉ to C₁₅ low aromatic content kerosene; C₆ to C₁₅ cyclo-aliphatic hydrocarbons; and fatty acid alkyl esters, such as C₁₆ to C₂₂ fatty acid alkyl esters, preferably, C₁₆-C₁₈ fatty acid (C₁-C₄) alkyl esters.
8. A composition according to any preceding claim, wherein component (d) is selected from low-foaming surfactants capable of keeping component (c) in solution in the composition, such as ethers of fatty alcohols.
9. A composition according to any preceding claim in the form of a solution.
10. A composition according to any preceding claim, which is substantially free from halogenated surfactants and solvents; and/or ammonia; ammonium and other nitrogen-based ingredients; and/or silicates and other depositing inorganics.
11. A composition according to any preceding claim, having a pH in the range of from 8 to 12, such as about 10.
12. A concentrate composition suitable for dilution with, in the range of from, 1 part concentrate to 8 parts water to prepare a composition according to any preceding claim.

13. A two-part cleaning composition suitable for cleaning carpets, which composition comprises:

(a) an alkaline cleaning composition, such as preferably a cleaning composition according to any preceding claim; and

5 (b) a neutralising composition comprising an aqueous solution of a non-oxidising acid whereby, in use, the pH of the combined compositions (a) and (b) is in the range of from 5.5 to 8.5, such as from 6.5 to 8.

14. A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 13, wherein the neutralising
10 composition (b) is provided as an aqueous solution of, in the range of from, one part acid to sixty parts water, such as a 1:40 solution.

15. A method suitable for cleaning a surface, which method comprises:-

(a) applying to the surface an alkaline cleaning composition, such as a cleaning
15 composition as defined in any of claims 1 to 11, in an amount sufficient to wet the surface, such as carpet fibres; and

(b) mechanically buffing the surface with a pad soaked in a neutralising
composition comprising an aqueous solution of a non-oxidising acid in an amount
sufficient to substantially neutralise the alkaline cleaning composition remaining on the
20 surface.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the aqueous acidic solution is heated
to a temperature in the range of from 50° to 95°C, such as in the range of from 70 to
85°C prior to buffing the surface.

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17. A method according to claim 15 or claim 16, wherein the alkaline cleaning composition comprises a water-based cleaning composition according to any of claims 1 to 11.

5 18. A method according to any of claims 15 to 17, using the two-part cleaning composition according to claim 13 or claim 14.

19. A method according to any of claims 15 to 18, carried out in a manner whereby the ratio of neutralising solution to cleaning composition is greater than one, such as in
10 the range of from 2 to 4:1, respectively.

20. The use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 14, in the preparation of an aqueous solution for cleaning a surface, such as carpet, upholstery, textiles, furnishings, metal and glass.

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21. The use of a composition according to any of claims 1 to 11, 13 or 14 in a method according to any of claims 15 to 19.

22. A method of preparing a composition according to any of claims 1 to 14, which
20 method comprises bringing the components into intimate physical admixture, whereby an aqueous solution or weak emulsion is formed.

23. A composition, method or use, substantially as hereinbefore described with particular reference to the Examples.

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